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# Detroit / River Rouge Oil Spill Unified Command News Release

Center

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## **River Rouge open to shipping** Shoreline clean up continues

DETROIT—River Rouge will open to shipping traffic at noon today, said U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr. Patrick Gerrity, Captain of the Port of Detroit and Incident Commander for this spill response.

“I am pleased that we can re-open the River Rouge,” Gerrity said. “Naturally, public health and environmental safety are our priorities.”

Vessel traffic will be required to at slow safe speed only. Clean-up crews will be standing by with snare boom—a floating device used to collect oil—and absorbent padding, he said.

“Should river traffic interfere with our clean-up operations and oil contamination of the Detroit River becomes obvious, I will not hesitate to close the River Rouge again,” Gerrity said.

Several vessels are waiting to move through the river channel. Traffic will be restricted to one at a time until the river clean-up is completed. The River Rouge has been closed since Saturday because of a major oil spill.

Clean-up crews have recovered about 42,000 gallons of emulsified, industrial-grade oil at a cost of about \$1.3 million to date. More than 150 people from local, state and federal agencies are involved in clean-up activities.

**NOTE TO EDITORS**—Photo opportunity: The first ship is expected to pass the Fort Street bridge about 1 p.m. today.

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